Minutes Catawba County Board of Commissioners Regular Session, Monday, May 3, 2004, 9:30 a.m.

Agreements Acceptance of JCPC Grant Agreement	550	05/03/04
Appointments Piedmont Wagon Transportation Committee for Persons with Disabilities (This committee will merge with the Transportation Advisory Board) Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Nursing and Rest Home Community Advisory Committee Tax Collector and Deputy Tax Collector	549 549 550 550	05/03/04 05/03/04 05/03/04 05/03/04
Budget Mental Health Budget Revision Supplemental Appropriation of Funds to Outfit a Mass Casualty Vehicle Purchased Through Federal Grant Funds Appropriation of Funds for Construction of a 30' x 50' Building on the Existing Animal Shelter Grounds	550 553 553	05/03/04 05/03/04 05/03/04
Closed Session NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) To consult with an attorney	555	05/03/04
Fire Marshal's Office Technical Changes to the Insurance Districts of the Mountain View Fire Department and Oxford "Catfish" Fire Department	554	05/03/04
Grants Acceptance of JCPC Grant Agreement	550	05/03/04
Elections, Board of Voter Outreach Initiative	549	05/03/04
Emergency Services Department Supplemental Appropriation of Funds to Outfit a Mass Casualty Vehicle Purchased Through Federal Grant Funds Appropriation of Funds for Construction of a 30' x 50' Building on the Existing Animal Shelter Grounds Technical Changes to the Insurance Districts of the Mountain View Fire Department and Oxford "Catfish" Fire Department	553553554	05/03/04 05/03/04 05/03/04
Mental Health Department Mental Health Budget Revision	550	05/03/04
Proclamations Cancer Survivors' Day Emergency Medical Service Week Older Americans Month Mental Health Month	548 548 548 548	05/03/04 05/03/04 05/03/04 05/03/04
Sheriff's Department Retiring Sheriff's Deputies Dianne Moose and Tony Keller Allocation of Revenues for State Per Diem Backlog for Prisoners Housed Locally	548 551	05/03/04 05/03/04

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 3, 2004, 9:30 a.m., at the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chairman Dan A. Hunsucker, Commissioners Glenn E. Barger, Barbara G. Beatty, and Lynn M. Lail.

Absent: N/A

A quorum was present.

Also present were County Manager/Deputy Clerk J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Mick W. Berry, Assistant County Manager Joellen J. Daley, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, Staff Attorney Debra Bechtel, and County Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney.

- 1. Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- 2. Commissioner Barger led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- 3. Invocation offered by Chair Barnes.
- 4. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular session of Monday, April 19, 2004. The motion carried unanimously.
- 5. Special Guests. None.
- 6. Public Comment for items not on the agenda.

Chair Barnes recognized Barbara Beatty and Dan Hunsucker as incumbents who have filed to run for another term as County Commissioner.

7. Presentations:

- a. Proclamations:
 - 1. The Board proclaimed Saturday, June 5, 2004, as "Cancer Survivors' Day" in Catawba County. Commissioner Lail read the proclamation.
 - 2. The Board proclaimed May 16-22, 2004, as Emergency Medical Service Week and Commissioner Hunsucker presented the proclamation to Bryan Blanton, EMS Manager. Mr. Blanton thanked the Board for the proclamation.
 - 3. The Board proclaimed May 2004 as Older Americans Month and Commissioner Barger presented a proclamation to Grace E. McLeod, Social Work Program Manager.
 - Ms. McLeod thanked the Board for its advocacy efforts. They have partnered with the Council for the Prevention of Adult Abuse and Neglect and there will be an information seminar on Thursday, May 6, 2004, which will focus on Medicare/Prescription Drug Program, legal issues, and they currently have 162 people signed up to attend the seminar.
 - 4. The Board proclaimed May 2004 as Mental Health Month and Commissioner Beatty presented a proclamation to John M. Hardy, Mental Health Director.
 - Mr. Hardy thanked the Board for its support.
- b. Commissioner Barger made a motion to declare Sheriff's Deputies Dianne Moose and Tony Keller service side arms and badges as surplus pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 20-187.2 and present same to them on the occasion of their retirement. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Barnes assisted Sheriff Huffman with the presentations.

Ms. Moose and Mr. Keller thanked the Board and Sheriff Huffman.

c. Voter Outreach Initiative.

Director of Elections Larry Brewer gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the new voting equipment and voting laws.

Changes in the Process

- -Show identification (First time voters who registered by mail)
- -Signature required (new Federal and State Law)
- -Use new voting tabulators

Why replace?

- -Catawba County used an Optical Scan system to "read" election ballots (OPTECH III-P Eagle)
- -Equipment was 10 years old, no longer supported
- -During the November 2003 election the County did experience equipment failure and had to use backup equipment

Arrival of Equipment

- -Equipment arrived on April 1, 2004
- -All equipment was tested and verified to be working correctly

Educating our Citizens

- -NewtonFest, CVCC SpringFling
- -Civic Clubs
- -Community Meetings (Claremont, Hickory, Newton, Sherrills Ford, and St. Stephens)
- -Church Groups
- -Sporting Events (Football games, etc.)

Educating our Citizens

- -Congregate meal sites demonstrations
- -Board of Elections office and libraries
- -Inserts in municipal water bills and county tax bills
- -City newsletters
- -Channel 3 on Charter TV
- -www.CatawbaVotes.com is the new web site

Training our Workers

- -Education training April 29-30, 2004
- -County staff training May 10-14, 2004
- -Pollworker training July 16-18, 2004

Mr. Brewer said the public could call Public Information Officer Dave Hardin to schedule Civic/Church group presentations. He briefly reviewed how to use the new system.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Brewer.

8. Appointments:

Piedmont Wagon Transportation Committee for Persons with Disabilities (This committee will merge with the Transportation Advisory Board.)

Chair Barnes nominated Mr. Paul Helton, 2371-23rd Avenue NE, Hickory for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2006.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Commissioner Hunsucker nominated Dr. William Crawford for reappointment to a third term; James C. Gaither reappointment for a first term; John M. Hardy reappointment to a sixth term; Pat Hensley reappointment for a second term; Barry Blick reappointed for a third term; Ric Vandett reappointed for a second term; and Steve Wright reappointed for a first term. All two-year terms will expire June 30, 2006.

Commissioner Hunsucker nominated Ms. Jennifer Eaker to a first term as Juvenile Defense Attorney category, replacing Hasshan Batts who did not wish to be reappointed. The two-year terms will expire June 30, 2006.

Commissioner Hunsucker also recommended the Board change the category for David Abernethy from Juvenile Defense Attorney category to Board of Commissioner Appointee.

Nursing and Rest Home Community Advisory Committee

Commissioner Lail nominated Ms. Jennifer Faulkner as a Commissioner appointee for an initial one-year term replacing Jean Bush, who did not wish to be reappointed. The term expires May 4, 2005.

Tax Collector and Deputy Tax Collector

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy recommended that the Board reappoint Ms. Jackie Spencer for a fourth term as Tax Collector and reappoint Jeanne Jarrett for a second term as Deputy Tax Collector (in charge of ambulance billing only). The terms will expire June 30, 2006.

There being no further nominations, Chair Barnes made a motion to approve the aforementioned appointments. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Consent agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following consent agenda items:

a. Acceptance of JCPC Grant Agreement.

The JCPC administrative and following programs are currently being funded:

JCPC Administrative	\$ 8,700
Catawba Parenting Network	12,950
Corner House I & II - Catawba County Dept. of Social Services	185,000
Conflict Resolution Center	21,000
Project Challenge	53,000
Subtotal	\$280,650

Due to Mental Health Reform the Psych. Services-Evaluation & Treatment will be funded through the Department of Social Services instead of Mental Health Department and the Substance Abuse Assessment/Treatment will be funded through Cognitive Connection instead of the Mental Health Department and is funded as a reasoning and reactive cognitive skills training.

Psych. Services-Evaluation & Treatment	\$ 43,000
Substance Abuse Assessment/Treatment - Cognitive Connection	23,000
Subtotal	\$ 66,000
Total	\$346,650

The Finance and Personnel Subcommittee at its March 29, 2004, meeting recommended that the Board of Commissioners accept funds for fiscal year 2004-2005 in the amount of \$346,650 from the State of North Carolina, Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC).

b. Mental Health Budget Revision.

The Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve a budget revision to increase the current Mental Health budget by \$602,598 bringing it to \$17,650,357. Adult Substance Abuse has received a onetime appropriation of \$10,000 to fund adult detoxifications services. The funding will cover the purchase of services from four providers. A dedicated staff person will provide follow up services for persons that have been admitted and discharged from detoxification. The additional services will provide support for over 180 clients through the end of this fiscal year. Adult Developmental Disabilities has received two State allocations that will impact persons with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). A contract with Benfield and Podger Associates has been granted for cognitive retraining for seven individuals in the amount of \$25,738. Also, there has been an allocation of \$15,360 for residential services. The home will open June 1, 2004. Continuous monies have been allocated for next year. Medicaid contracts have been increased by \$550,000, which is due to increased service demands, and requires adjustments to contracted services funded by Medicaid. Adjustments are requested in the following areas: Community Support Program (CSP)-\$30,000-day activity and psychosocial services; Counseling Services and Substance Abuse (CSAS)-\$220,000-residential, day treatment, outpatient and community based services; and Developmental

Disabilities (DD)-\$300,000-respite, and community based services. Drug treatment services are being increase by \$1,500. Substance Abuse clients are mandated to pay an annual fee of \$520. The clients meet bi-monthly and must make a payment at each meeting. The money is to be used at the discretion of the drug court team for enhancement of the local drug treatment program. The budget is based on the actual fees collected. This revision adds no new positions and requests no additional County funding.

Supplemental Appropriations

Account Number Expenditures:			Account Number Revenues:		
110-531001-915570	Medicaid Services	\$30,000	110-531001-672151	Medicaid Contracts	\$30,000
110-532001-915570	Medicaid Services	\$200,000	110-532001-672151	Medicaid Contracts	\$220,000
110-532001-915950	CTSP Contracts	\$20,000	110-533001-672151	Medicaid Contracts	\$300,000
110-533001-915570	Medicaid Services	\$300,000	110-532001-635400 Adult SA	CSAS Prog. Mgmt-	\$10,000
110-532001-915520 Contract SA Services	0 0	\$10,000	110-533001-635200 DD	DD Prog Mgmt-Adult	\$41,098
110-533001-911420	DD Prog, Mgmt-DD Svs	\$41,098	110-537013-672156	Drug Treatment Fees	\$1,500
110-537013-911910	Drug Treatment Svc	\$1,500			

c. Allocation of Revenues for State Per Diem Backlog for Prisoners Housed Locally.

The Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners appropriate revenues received from the NC Department of Correction in the amount of \$139,617. These revenues are payment for inmates sentenced to serve state time housed locally until the state can transfer them to a state facility. The Department of Corrections pays county jails a fee of \$40 per day for state inmates that are housed in local facilities until the inmates can be transferred to a state facility to begin serving time. The county did not receive any revenue for this function from fiscal year 2000/2001 until the end of last fiscal year because the state had over capacity for its sentenced inmates. During the second half of last fiscal year the county received \$40,000 for per diem backlog payments and this fiscal year the county has received over \$150,000. The original state budget proposal for fiscal year 2003/2004 called for the elimination of all per diem backlog payments as a means of reducing expenses in the state budget. As a result of the unpredictability of this revenue no anticipated revenues were budgeted for this fiscal year. The Sheriff's Office has several needs it proposes to use these funds to address as follows:

- -A new van for the jail to replace an older unit that has over 100,000 miles. There are maintenance issues with the older van. Staff proposes to buy a cargo van for approximately \$20,000 and purchase a van cell insert specially designed to transport prisoners securely for approximately \$9,000. Additional funds of \$2,000, will be needed to stripe and initially set up the vehicle for operation. Total cost \$31,000.
- -A new color printer for jail booking to replace a unit that is no longer working \$2,000.
- -A new laptop for the jail administrator to replace a unit that is no longer working \$1,800.
- -Additional funds for the food services contract to cover the cost of housing the larger inmate population \$10,000.
- -Additional funds are needed to cover the drastically increased cost of fuel \$20,000.
- -During the recent budget cuts, the department's part-time funds were cut almost in half. Additional part-time funds for the jail and court divisions are needed to cover unanticipated expenses caused by employee illnesses, the addition of an infractions court requiring additional bailiffs, a greater number of employees needing to attend the required jail school, an increase in the hourly rate for deputies in connection with the one-third study with no increase in part-time allocation, and the need for additional personnel during peak times to handle the large jail population. (Part-time \$14,000 court with \$1071 FICA and \$30,000 jail with \$2,295 FICA).
- -Additional funds are needed to fund the Strategic Tactics and Response Team (STAR Team)

Stipend. During the personnel one-third study conducted last year, a stipend was added for STAR Team members but no funds were added to the fiscal year 2003/2004 budget to cover these costs. (\$14,000 and \$1,071 FICA).

-Additional funds are needed to cover costs associated with two employees retiring in May. Funds are needed for vacation balance payouts, the cost of hiring a replacement a month early to train in one position and the additional cost of the law enforcement supplement for the two officers (\$11,500 and \$880 FICA). Normally salary differentiations would cover these costs but since the retirements are occurring at the end of the year there won't be enough time to cover the expenses.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

110-220050-670150 Per diem Backlog	\$57,000
110-220250-670150 Per diem Backlog	\$82,617
Appropriation 110-220050-984000 Motor Vehicles	\$20,000
110-220050-985000 Other Equipment	\$9,000
110-210050-835025 Automotive Supplies	\$2,000
110-220050-812500 Part-time Wages	\$30,000
110-220050-821100 FICA	\$2,295
110-210600-812500 Part-time Wages	\$14,000
110-210600-821100 FICA	\$1,071
110-210050-812155 STAR Team Stipend	\$7,000
110-210050-821100 FICA	\$535
110-210070-812155 STAR Team Stipend	\$7,000
110-210070-821100 FICA	\$536
110-210250-812100 Regular Wages	\$5,500
110-210250-821100 FICA	\$421
110-210050-812303 Optional Wages – Separation Allowance	\$6,000
110-210250-821100 FICA	\$459
110-220050-870150 Small Tools – DP Equipment	\$3,800
110-210050-835005 Motor Fuels Gas	\$20,000

<u>Revenue</u>

110-220150-857500 Contractual Food Services \$10,000

Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

End Consent Agenda

10. Departmental Reports:

- a. Emergency Services Department:
 - Supplemental Appropriation of Funds to Outfit a Mass Casualty Vehicle Purchased Through Federal Grant Funds.

Emergency Services Director David Weldon said the Emergency Services Steering Committee agreed that it was necessary to have a vehicle equipped to handle a large number of injuries. Not only was the committee considering Weapons of Mass Destruction events but also the fact that Catawba County has an airport and at least three major transportation routes that could produce the need for a unit of this nature. Initially, the Emergency Services Steering Committee contemplated refurbishing one of the Freightliner ambulances that were to be surplused. However, it was determined that the cost to reconfigure the ambulance was more than the purchase price of a new truck and the reconfigured unit would have mileage in excess of 150,000 miles. Administration was approached with the idea and agreed that these ambulances would be sold and the funds received from the sale of these surplus ambulances would be used to outfit the new Mass Casualty vehicle. The Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners appropriate funds in the amount of \$16,156 from the sale of surplus ambulances. These funds will be used to obtain equipment needed to outfit a Mass Casualty Vehicle that will be purchased through Homeland Security Grant funds.

Revenue Expense

110-190050-680700 \$16,156 110-260060-870100 \$16,156 Sale of Properties Small Tools and Minor Equipment

Commissioner Lail made a motion to appropriate the aforementioned funds to outfit a mass casualty vehicle purchased through federal grant funds. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Appropriation of Funds for Construction of a 30' x 50' Building on the Existing Animal Shelter Grounds.

EMS Director David Weldon introduced Irene Phipps-Ruff, Chief Animal Control Officer, and said Ms. Phipps-Ruff had already made some improvements and has great ideas.

Ms. Phipps-Ruff said she was pleased to be in Catawba County and was excited about the new addition to the animal shelter to make the shelter more user friendly for the general public.

Mr. Weldon said the Policy and Public Works Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners appropriate funds in the amount of \$110,000 from the General Fund Balance and \$20,000 from a completed capital project titled Government Center Backup Generator Project. These funds will be used to construct a 30' x 50' building on the existing Animal Shelter grounds. This building will allow for 20 additional 4' x 8' kennel units. This will help with current overcrowding and allow for separation of animals. The Current Animal Shelter is over 19 years old and the population of animals being housed in the shelter has exceeded our kennel capacity. Catawba County services a population of 141,685 to include eight municipalities whose animals are housed in the County's shelter. This number for the past year has averaged 4,714 dogs per year. The average intake per day is approximately 14 dogs for 30 kennels (with many dogs being housed for multiple days). This puts staff in the position of housing multiple dogs per kennel and makes for a less than customer friendly situation when people come to the shelter interested in adopting an animal. The spread of disease from sick animals to healthy, disease free, adoptable dogs is a concern with animals

in close proximity. The ability to house adoptable animals for a long period of time also is a problem because of limited kennel space. Staff currently works with the Humane Society, which take as many adoptable animals as they can house and have done a wonderful job with their adoption program through Petsmart. The new building will house 20 additional kennels. The kennels will be heated and cooled and have appropriate feeding and cleaning capacity. The new kennel area will be used to house bite, quarantine, dangerous, and sick dogs away from the well and adoptable animals. The structure will be a metal building on grade slab with split-faced block on three sides to match the existing facility. The non-block side will allow for future expansion. The structure will sit directly west of the existing structure and will have easy access from the current building but will not be adjoining. Staff is negotiating with Marty Beal for Architectural services. The eight municipalities in the County participate in the cost of operating the animal shelter based on population. This cost sharing includes staff costs and general operating costs and extends to capital items such as vehicles and euthanization equipment, but does not include the cost of building construction.

Transfer:

410-460100-985000-11002	Gov't Center Generator (\$20,00	00)
410-460100-988000-12022	Animal Shelter Renovation	\$20,000
Supplemental Appropriation:		
110-190900-995410	Transfer to General Capital	\$110,000
110-190050-690100	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$110,000
410-460100-988000-12022	Animal Shelter Renovation	\$110,000
410-460100-695110	Transfer From General Fund	\$110,000

Commissioner Beatty asked if the municipalities had been informed about the new addition, upcoming programs, and introduced to the new Chief Animal Control Officer.

Mr. Lundy said he sent a letter to all the city managers in Catawba County and talked with each of them about the plans for next year prior to the letter. In the letter he mentioned the addition. New contracts were signed last fall and proposed costs were outlined with payment options. They were given the option of paying for the full share or the county financing the cost over five-years.

Chair Barnes said it would be important for the City Managers to pass the information on to their City Councils.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the aforementioned appropriation of funds for the construction of a 30' x 50' building on the existing Animal Shelter grounds. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Technical Changes to the Insurance Districts of the Mountain View Fire Department and Oxford "Catfish" Fire Department. (Maps on file in the Office of Fire Marshal.)

Emergency Services Director David Weldon said the Fire Marshal requested that the Board of Commissioners approve technical changes to the Insurance District of the Mountain View Fire Department and Insurance District of the Oxford "Catfish" Fire Department for providing fire and other emergency protection for certain specified, unincorporated areas of Catawba County.

The Mountain View Fire District technical changes involve 269 parcels of land that were previously <u>not</u> within the five mile insurance rated portion of the district, but that now <u>are</u> included in the rated portion of the district due to the addition of a second fire department base located at Advent Crossroads near Bakers Mountain Park.

The Oxford "Catfish" Fire District technical changes involve 460 parcels of land that were previously <u>not</u> within the five mile insurance rated portion of the district, but that now <u>are</u> included in the rated portion of the district due to the addition of a second fire department base located at on Highway 16 North.

A second station was constructed on Old Shelby Road at Advent Crossroads which was part of Mountain View Fire Department's five-year projected plan. The addition of this new base will not only improve the response times and services provided by the fire department, but will also improve the fire insurance ratings for a number of parcels not currently covered by the five mile response area of base No. 1, resulting in insurance premium savings to these property owners.

The Oxford community continues to grow rapidly with residential subdivisions. As part of Oxford Fire Department's five-year projected plan, a second station was constructed on Hwy. 16 North of Conover. The addition of this new base will not only improve the response times and services provided by the fire department, but will also improve the fire insurance ratings for a number of parcels not currently covered by the five mile response area of base No. 1, resulting in insurance premium savings to these property owners. This building will also be utilized by Catawba County EMS and Claremont Rescue as an additional base location to better serve the community and reduce response times for both fire and medical needs.

The NC Response Rating System (NCRRS), a division of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, has reviewed the technical changes identified. Updated maps (prepared by Catawba County GIS) have been created. The NCRRS needs the approval of the revised insurance district by the County Commissioners to complete the 9S Inspection process that gives credit for the new fire station.

Commissioner Beatty requested that Mr. Weldon provide the Board with a list of fire stations in Catawba County that does not have hydrants.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve Technical Changes to the Insurance Districts of the Mountain View Fire Department and Oxford "Catfish" Fire Department. The motion carried unanimously.

- 11. Attorneys' Report. None.
- 12. Manager's Report. None.
- 13. Other items of business:
 - Closed Session.

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy requested that the Board hold a Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body. Mr. Lundy said he did not anticipate any action after the closed session.

At 10:40 a.m. Commissioner Barger made a motion to recess into Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body. The motion carried unanimously.

At 11:10 a.m. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to return to open session. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Adjournment.

At 11:10 a.m., there being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is a special meeting scheduled for Monday, May 24, 2004, 8:00 a.m., 1924 Courthouse, Newton, North Carolina for budget hearings.

Katherine W. Barnes Chair, Board of Commissioners	
Thelda B. Rhoney County Clerk	